

COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE

I. LEGAL AUTHORITY:

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, in Title IV of the Workforce Development Act of 1998; CFR 361.48(c).

II. POLICY STATEMENT AND PURPOSE:

- A. Counseling and guidance are integral parts of the entire rehabilitation process beginning at the intake interview and continuing throughout. Counseling is a cooperative individual process in which the rehabilitation counselor and the individual with a disability arrive at mutually acceptable decisions based on informed choice consistent with the individual's abilities and capabilities. When counseling services are provided, the process must begin at the individual's current point of focus and progress toward making changes in attitudes and behaviors which may be adversely affecting rehabilitation goals. The goals of counseling and guidance are to assist persons with disabilities to reach maximum levels of independence by moving through the rehabilitation process toward a suitable and rewarding employment goal.

Counseling and guidance services include but are not limited to the following:

1. Providing personal adjustment counseling (exclusive of therapeutic intervention);
2. Making referrals necessary to help individuals with disabilities receive needed services from other appropriate agencies and/or resources;
3. Advising individuals with disabilities about available vocational rehabilitation services including the Client Assistance Program (CAP);
4. Referring individuals as appropriate for Independent Living services;
5. Assisting persons with disabilities in obtaining an optimum job-person match;
6. Assisting individuals with disabilities in coping with any environmental barriers affecting the rehabilitation process (i.e., family relationships, societal attitudes, employment conditions, etc.);
7. Encouraging and/or motivating individuals to develop skills necessary to regain control of their lives, to make informed decisions, and to initiate activities to resolve problems;

8. Providing follow-up services, including follow-up relationships with employers as necessary to insure successful vocational outcomes; and
 9. Providing services to family members whenever necessary to aid the individual with a disability in progressing successfully through the rehabilitation process.
- B. Counseling and guidance may be particularly appropriate when individuals with disabilities are moving from one stage of development to another.

Examples:

1. High school to college
2. High school to work
3. College to employment
4. Family living to independent living, etc.